

X J N M P B L A S H I N

MEN OF THE ARMY FAREWELL!

340162

MEN, the work of demobilizing the army is now in progress. According to published statements, you will be given your choice of being returned to the points from which you were taken or of remaining in the district in which the cantonment where you have been encamped is located.

MEN, since you have been in the great military camps you have learned and unlearned many things. Some of you were taken from great industrial centers where you labored in great factories, on railroads, or in mines, and with thousands of other workers you socially operated the industries for the benefit of those who own them.

Many of you were taken from small cities and towns where industry is carried on in a smaller way and the social nature of production is not so apparent as in the larger industrial centers.

Thousands of others were taken from small villages, hamlets and farms in which, aside from agriculture, there is no industrial production, and workers live and labor in almost complete isolation and with little knowledge of the great industrial world by which they are surrounded.

MEN, no matter from whence you were taken, your old life has been broken and when you leave the great military camps you will look upon the world in a different way and you will find

Conditions greatly changed to what they were before you were put into the service.

MEN, you have been brought together in large numbers, and you have noticed that, while you may differ in some physical details, you look pretty much alike, and you have observed after becoming acquainted and comparing notes, that the vast majority of you come from one particular part of society—the working class part.

MEN, you have been drilled, disciplined and taught to obey; to you who were taken from the great industries, this was nothing new; but those who were taken from the smaller towns and rural parts of the country it was a new experience.

MEN, you have learned to ACT TOGETHER, you have had practical lessons in CONCERTED, ORDERLY ACTION TO GAIN A DEFINITE OBJECTIVE: This has been drilled into you.

MEN, you were taken from the ranks of the workers, and, no matter whether you are sent back to where you were taken from or remain in the neighborhood where you now are, YOU GO BACK TO THE RANKS OF THE WORKERS, and you must get work; you must find jobs. Notwithstanding the promises held out in daily papers, magazines, etc., about providing jobs for returned soldiers, you will find that you will have to compete with thousands of other workers for a decreased and ever decreasing number of jobs. You will find that notwithstanding their glowing promises, employers do not give jobs to workers because they love them. Industries are run for profit and the workers produce the profit.

MEN, on your discharge from the army, and return to the ranks of the workers, you will find the owners of the great industries organized into great industrial unions, ready to take full advantage of the great army of unemployed that is now developing due to the closing down of war industries, and these organized owners of industries will use their industrial power to take every possible advantage of the workers.

The employers will endeavor to USE YOU to protect their interests; they will incite YOU to mob, beat up and murder

the members of YOUR OWN CLASS. They will use every effort to arouse and enrage you, appealing to your "patriotism" and waving the "red" flag. When YOU have served the purpose of the employing class, YOU will be thrown aside and if you, in your turn, struggle for better industrial conditions, YOU will receive the same treatment that YOU helped to give to the members of YOUR own class.

MEN, you are going back to the working class from whence you came and to which you belong. Your economic interests are the same as all other workers, no matter what color or where they were born. You are all workers seeking jobs from those who own industries; when you get jobs you are paid wages, which is a part of the wealth you have produced; the employers take all and hand the workers back just as little as possible; the less the workers get, the more the employers have. The boss can close down the industries when it suits his purpose, and YOU will have to hunt another job; you do not have to work for any particular employer, but you have got to work for SOME employer, some job owner in the class of employers, otherwise you must beg or steal, and in either event you are liable to be sent to jail. In short YOU like all members of your class are wage slaves. Are you content to be a WAGE SLAVE?

You were put in the army, it has been stated, to fight for "democracy and freedom." Don't you think it is time for YOU to realize the fact that YOU are NOT FREE and that it is up to YOU to line up with YOUR CLASS and help it to FIGHT AND WIN INDUSTRIAL FREEDOM RIGHT HERE IN THE UNITED STATES?

MEN, since you have been in the army, you have seen how organization is perfected, how one part fits into the other, each performing its share of the work, just as a huge machine. One part of the same army does not fight the other; while it is divided into different units, it is not separated into exclusive, warring groups, each fighting one section of the common enemy on its own hook, while the common enemy puts up a solid front and fights and defeats its divided, separated opponent. An army divided against itself is a beaten army.

The world's industrial workers must organize on the same principle—into industrial unions, each union subdivided into branches corresponding to the departments of the industry, and all branches of an industry brought together in an industrial department, while the industrial Departments are brought together in a great industrial army called the Industrial Workers of the World, in which the working class is organized to present a solidly organized front to the industrially organized employing class.

This great industrial union of workers is organizing for the purpose of obtaining all possible immediate benefits for the working class—shorter work day, improvements in working conditions more money wages, etc.—all of which are but steps to the taking possession by the working class of the industries which that class now operates but does not own; we take just as much as we have the organized industrial power to take and to hold.

The world's industrial workers must recognize their common class interests and organize.

The world's industrial workers must organize intelligently and scientifically on industrial lines, not only to carry on the every day battle of the working class, not only to take possession of the world's industries, but to carry on production when the present wage slavery system is abolished.

That is what the Industrial Workers of the World is organized for; as it tears down the old rotten capitalistic economic system, through organized direct economic action it lays the foundation for a new system and in the shell of the old builds the structure of a new society—the Workers Industrial Republic.

MEN, you are intelligent and are able to do your own thinking; examine these facts for yourself; do not be led astray by misrepresentations and falsehood. Find out what your CLASS INTERESTS ARE and ACT in accordance therewith.

Get the literature of the I. W. W., read, THINK and act.

MEN of the army, Farewell!

Members of the working class, greeting.